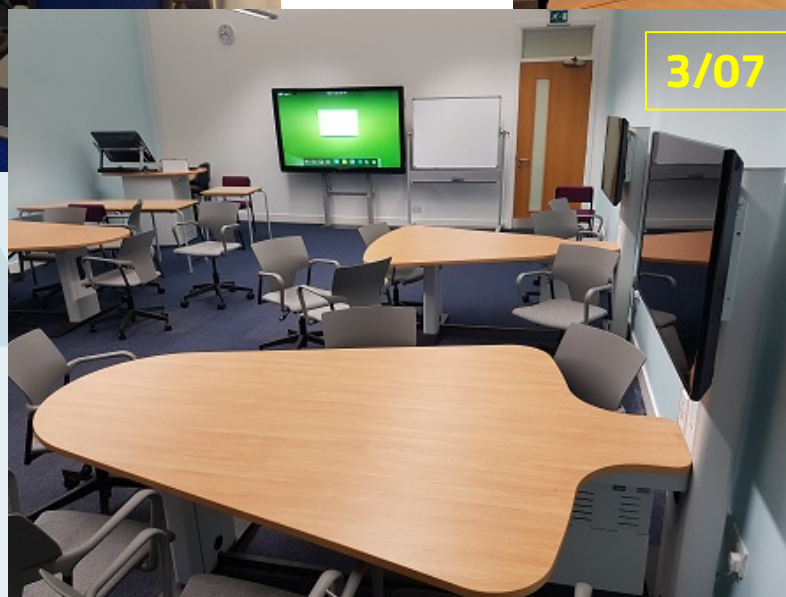


Active Learning Classrooms

What's in the name?

Stevie Robertson, Kristen Marshall, Stephen Bruce

Craiglockhart 07 rooms



All of this comes with a caveat

- no two tutorial groups are the same

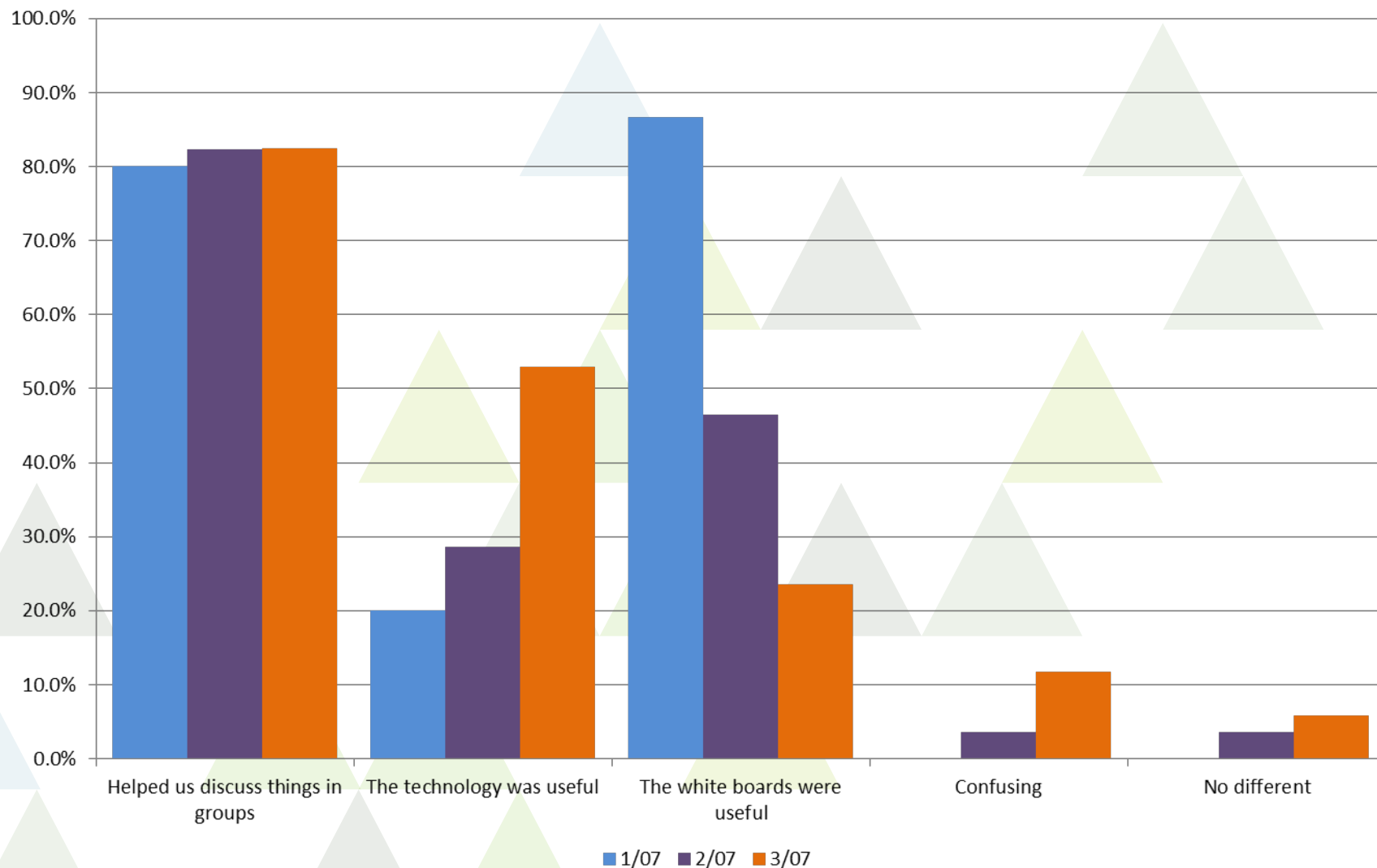
“People are talking over each other. Hands going. Challenging. Collaborative.”

Room 2/07 @ 12:00

“Flat class. Polite discussion but not many people talking”

Room 2/07 @ 2:00

Generally I thought the tutorial room was... (select as many as appropriate)



Room 1/07



“At first the room was uncomfortable but later on we figured out how to use those rotating chairs and it really helped to form discussion groups and write on white boards”

“It was good to be able to move easily on the chairs and sit in a circle to discuss things”

“was in the room with those new swivelly chairs. The were daunting to begin with and a little uncomfortable and difficult to sit in however great for group work and the white boards were very good for displaying and linking theories and ideas.”

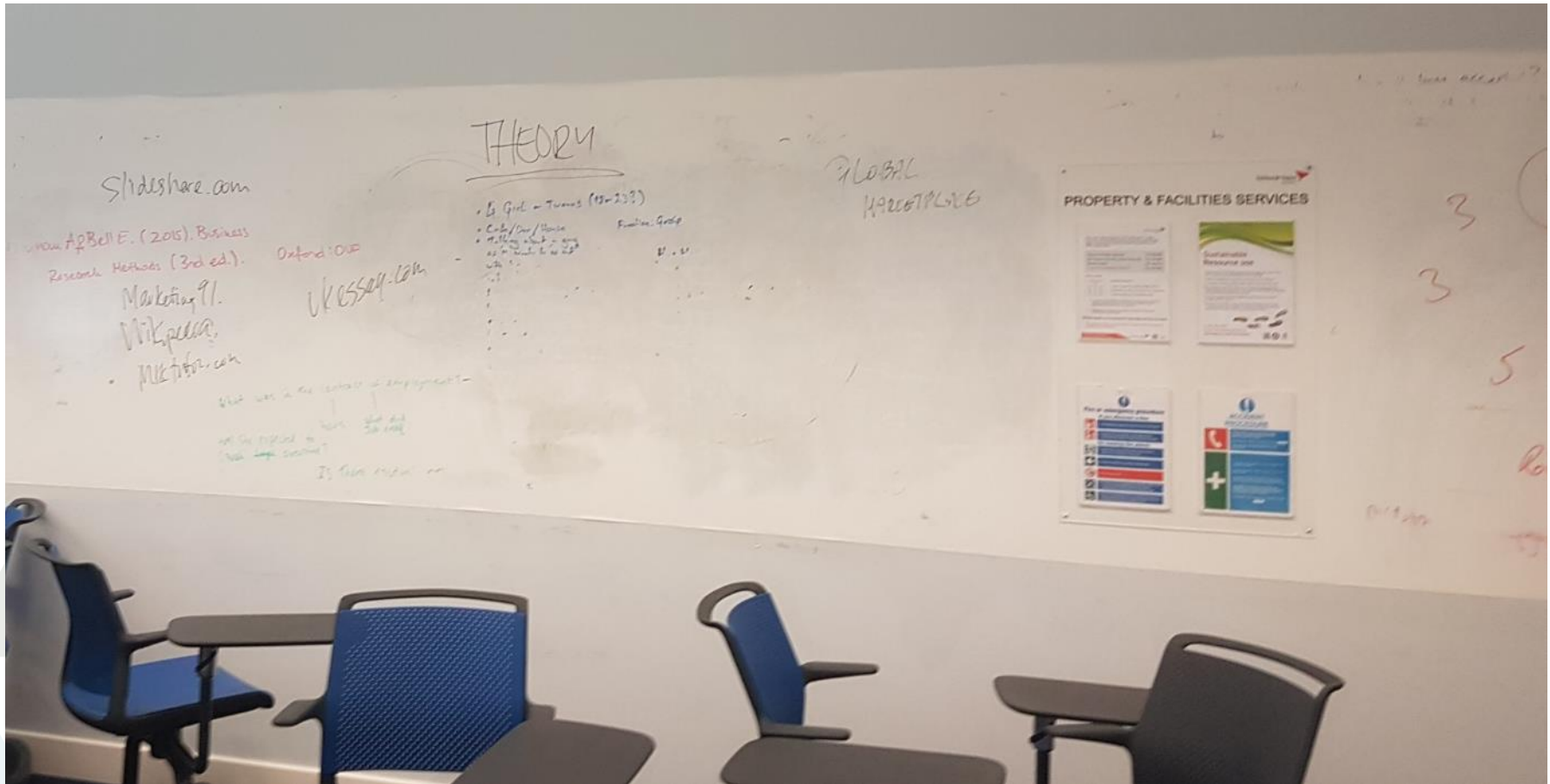
Room 1/07

The spare chairs can make the class seem very cluttered but they can facilitate good discussions.



Room 1/07

The whiteboards are great but too often my first task was to clean up after others.



FEEDBACK ROOM 1/07

other points they didn't write.

→ chairs/desks squeaky/noisy.

→ boards hard to clean

→ too many chairs in room.

- The room ~~is~~ is fine, the only thing I don't like is that when sitting in groups or when looking at on board I give my back to the teacher or who is speaking.

- Chairs are not so comfy and tables too small.

I dislike the chairs, they are uncomfortable and a bit of a hassle although they are good for group work but still difficult for movement

+
- hard to move
- hard to use boards

+ good for groups
+ comfortable

Entertaining but useless

Not a lot of space with all the chairs

Room 2/07



It's really annoying when we are seating with some people in our backs...

DONT LIKE THE TABLES! the Circle ones were good but didn't like the funny shaped ones. Room isn't big enough to accommodate the tables and they are awkward to manoeuvre around. Whiteboards were really good I enjoyed activities using these. TV's were good until they turned themselves off...

Desks were set out funny.

The tables were organised shockingly each week.

I liked the tables, but it made the room quite tight and it could also be quite hard to see Stevie when he moved about.

Room 2/07

I liked the open space and the disregard for the regimented format that is found in the typical class room.

The tables were very useful to help conversation within the groups.

The desks are flexible but not that easy to reconfigure. We did lose class time trying to set things up.



Too much furniture (tables)

We enjoyed the whiteboards

- o A bit small for this amount of people.
- o Screens ~~don't~~ work well.

Not enough tables, ones at the front don't have a lot of room

The boards are nice.

Pros

- good lighting
- good technology

Cons

- Too small
- We should have a bigger desk area

Zooms are too clustered w/ too many desks which are weirdly shaped.

Keep the Boards!

* THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH TABLES FOR ALL THE STUDENTS

* THE MAIN BOARD DOESN'T WORK

Worked well

good way to carry out a group activity.

Room 3/07



I really like the rooms that have white board all around the walls.

I didn't like that there was no white board and that there was only 4 tables.

We didn't have white boards in or Room and I think they would help

I liked the layout of the room with the tables and chair it made group work easy especially during the groupwork assessment periods

I like being able to sit in groups which makes it easier for discussion

Room 3/07

To get the best out of that group focus then there needs to be some form of leadership dynamic or at least facilitation from the person at the keyboard.

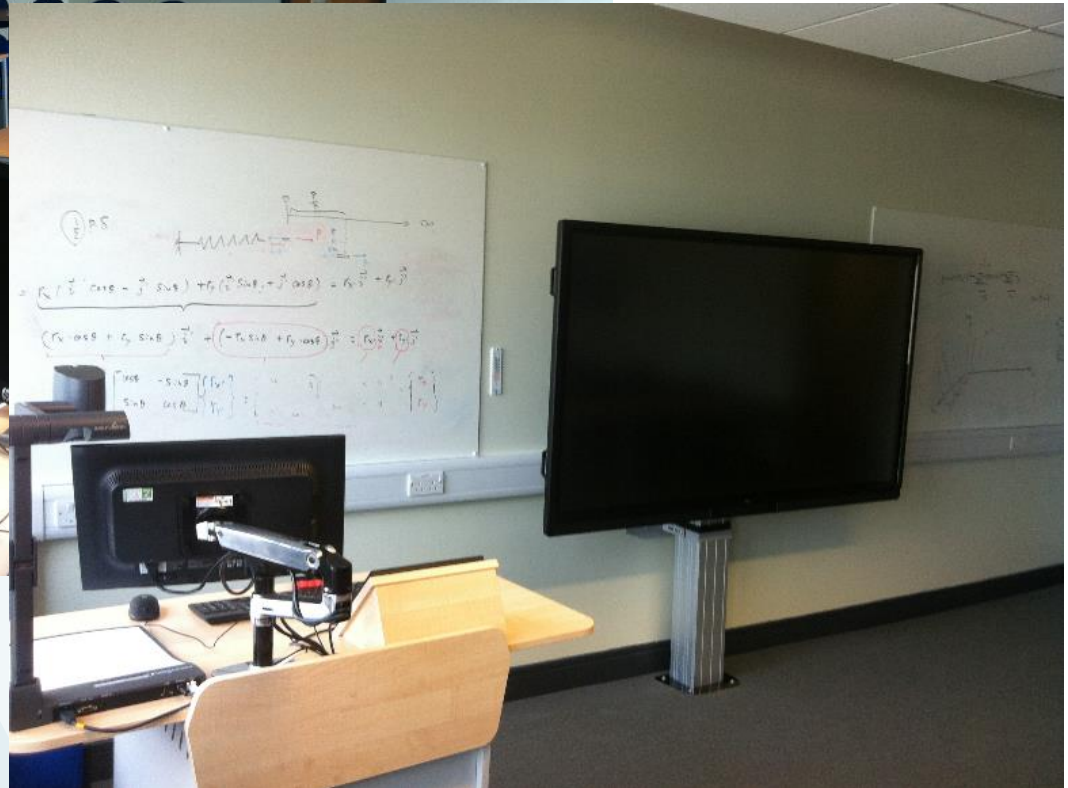
Often the other team members are doing their own research in parallel so the group focus is lost.

Groups have multiple tasks to complete in a short time, so some splitting into sub groups is inevitable. Relevance of a group focus on "a" screen or view diminishes too.



Paul Langford, Lecturer, Business School

Merchiston E7



Considerations – furniture & fittings

- Collaborative rooms or flexible learning spaces
- Tables & chairs must be easy to move and reconfigure
- Requires additional room space
- Reduces room seating capacity
- Unstructured classroom initially
- Need regular whiteboard or a dual display
- Wall talkers need frequent deep cleaning

Considerations – technology & teaching

- Main smartboard is smaller than data projector screen
- Visualisers are still relevant technology
- Confidence with technology requires training and support
- Dual lesson planning for regular and active learning rooms
- Lesson duration pressurises content v facilitation balance
- Group dynamics and use of single screen at desk
- Collaborative rooms less suitable for presentation style class

What's in the name?

- something tangible to promote active learning in general
 - shifting emphasis from content to facilitation
- consider other classroom technologies
 - polling, student owned devices, Moodle app
- consider pre-class activities in Moodle
 - videos, quizzes

